
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

MEETING: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 **AGENDA ITEM** _____

DATE: 09.06.2023

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: **HARBOR OF REFUGE RAILROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

Background:

As you recall in April, the Port Commission made a recommendation to Council to solicit bids to replace the culvert in Corporation Ditch under the railroad in the Harbor of Refuge. In June, City Council approved Urban Engineering Task Order #32 to prepare bid documents. Plans were prepared to install 2 ea. 96" polymer coated Galvanized corrugated pipe. This allows for increased runoff that will come with future development.

We submitted the plans for UPRR review in accordance with out 1971 Track Agreement on .

Bids were opened on Wednesday September 6. Although we were anticipating at least two bids, only one was received from Lester Contracting, Inc. A bid tabulation is attached.

The Base Bid of \$749,850 is for the pipe specification that is specified by Union Pacific (8 Guage thickness and comes only from Illinois with a lead time of 10-12 weeks. Alternate Bid No. 1 is for an alternate pipe specification that meets railroad E80 loading but is less expensive and is more available with a lead time of 4-6 weeks. We were unable to get any feedback from the railroad regarding the alternate pipe specification prior to bidding, so we bid both alternatives. As of the writing of this memo, we have not heard back from UPRR engineering regarding acceptance of the Alternative specification.

Lester Contracting states that once they have the pipe, the actual work will take approximately 30 days. So best case scenario would be approval of the alternate spec, which would put completion – maybe before Thanksgiving but more realistically early December. If we must wait for the UPRR spec then we are looking at completion more likely toward the end of January, considering the Christmas holiday.

We are hoping to have some feedback from UPRR to share at the meeting Monday night. If we do not have clear direction from UPRR by Monday, staff recommends that an award be made not to exceed the Base Bid. Staff will to continue to work with UPRR and the contract will not be executed until approval is received from UPRR. If UPRR will approve the Alternate Bid spec, then the award will be for the Alternate Bid. We were assured by UPRR staff early on that they would not hold us up, so we are optimistic we should her something soon.

Financial Impact:

The adopted FY 2023-24 Capital Improvement Plan has \$300,000 budgeted for this culvert work, so we are require another \$449,850 or \$339,850 from General Fund Reserves depending upon which alternate we are able to construct.

CITY OF PORT LAVACA

Photographs of existing conditions:



Photograph of upstream side this summer after a rain
Note the collapsed end of the pipe on the left.



View from the downstream end of one of the
Pipes.



View of collapsed pipe on upstream side after clearing operations



View of upstream side after clearing operations